

5. The study of the *neuroses and psychoses* of adult life first became fruitful under the influence of Freud's hypothesis of libidinal development, a development passing through oral, anal and phallic phases to the full genital stage of the mature sexual organisation. (Neurotic and psychotic individuals never in fact pass beyond these earlier phases to the extent to which the more normal person does, but remain more or less fixated at one or other of these earlier levels of sexual development.) More recently, the many serious difficulties of behaviour and neuroses occurring in childhood itself have been illuminated by further analytic research originating in this now well-established hypothesis.

6. Freud's discovery of the successive phases of sexual development not only gave us a true understanding of the relation between illness and health, but made possible for the first time a radical *therapy* for the neuroses, psychoses and perversions.

Through this understanding, then, we are enabled to build up an ordered and intelligible view of the whole emotional development through childhood to adult life, a view which serves to systematise the difficulties and anomalies as well as normal history, and provides us with a basis for an effective therapeutic technique in cases of disturbance.

These, briefly, are the more significant reasons which led me to group all the diverse sorts of behaviour in this general section under the one heading of "sexuality". They will, I hope, be made clearer in detail by the course of my further commentary.

It should be remembered that the sub-headings of this general section were not arrived at by a systematic quarterming of the theoretical ground, but by a direct survey of what the material itself happened to offer.

It will, however, be advantageous if, at this point, before taking up my detailed commentary on the actual material, I state in brief outline certain broad essentials of psycho-analytic theory which these data require for their understanding. Otherwise many of my detailed comments on particular incidents or particular sections of the material may be rather unintelligible. I have already used a number of psycho-analytic concepts in my interpretation of the children's social relations ; and will gather these up into the broad theory.